

Examiner than relies upon Appendix A of IS-54 for support as to why one skilled in the art would combine CMEA with Alanara.

The Examiner's allegations above demonstrate the Examiner's apparent misunderstanding of the Alanara patent. Referring to Figures 5-6, and more particularly to column 9-10 of Alanara, Alanara explains the CMEA algorithm. As one skilled in the cryptographic arts would recognize, when F is set to equal 1 as explained in column 9, lines 44-46, then the algorithm explained in columns 9-10 of Alanara as well as Figures 5-6 is the CMEA algorithm. Alanara further indicates this by calling this setting a "compatibility setting," which means that the Alanara encryptor interoperates with CMEA. Because of the nature of encryption algorithms, any algorithm that interoperates with another is identical to it.

Alanara also describes that when the compatibility switch is set to the secure setting, the ORing with 1 in CMEA's middle pass becomes ORing with a fixed single-octet key called the IKEY.

Accordingly, Alanara simply teaches selecting between the CMEA process and a slightly modified version of the CMEA process. Alanara does not disclose or suggest "performing an iteration of the CMEA process..., the iteration of the CMEA process employing an enhanced tbox function using an involuntary look-up, the inputs to the enhanced tbox function being subjected to a

permutation using one or more of the secret offsets to produce a permutation result," as recited in claim 1.

Likewise, Appendix A to IS-54 which describes the CMEA algorithm is similarly deficient with respect to claim 1.

Therefore, claim 1 is not rendered obvious to one skilled in the art by Alanara in view of Appendix A of IS-54. Claim 2, dependent upon claim 1, is patentable at least for the reasons stated above with respect to claim 1 as well as on its own merits.

Claims 3-5 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being unpatentable over Alanara in view of Appendix A to IS-54 and an article from Schneier. Applicants respectfully traverse this art grounds of rejection.

As discussed above, Alanara in view of Appendix A fails to render claim 1 obvious to one skilled in the art. From even a cursory review of the Schneier text, it is clear that Schneier does not overcome the disclosure and suggest deficiencies of Alanara and Appendix A with respect to claim 1. Therefore claim 1 is patentable over Alanara in view of Appendix A to IS-54 and Schneier. Claims 3-5, dependent upon claim 1, are patentable at least for the reasons stated above with respect to claim 1.

Claims 6-18 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being unpatentable over Alanara in view of Appendix A, Schneier, Vernan, and Friedman. Applicants respectfully traverse this art grounds of rejection.

As discussed above, Alanara in view of Appendix A and Schneier does not render claim 1 obvious to one skilled in the art.

Furthermore, from a cursory review of Vernan and Friedman, it is clear that Vernan and Friedman do not overcome the disclosure and suggest deficiencies of Alanara, Appendix A and Schneier with respect to claim 1. Therefore, claim 1 is not rendered obvious to one skilled in the art by Alanara in view of Appendix A, Schneier, Vernan and Friedman. Claims 6-8 and 11-16, dependent upon claim 1, are patentable at least for the reasons stated above with respect to claim 1.

Claim 9 includes similar limitations to those discussed above with respect to claim 1, and therefore, is patentable at least for the reasons stated above with respect to claim 1.

Claim 10, dependent upon claim 9, is patentable at least for the reasons stated above with respect to claim.

Claims 17 and 18 also include similar limitations to those discussed above with respect to claim 1. Therefore, claims 17 and 18 are patentable at least for the reasons stated above with respect to claim 1.

Claims 17 and 18 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being unpatentable over Alanara in view of Appendix A to IS-54, Schneier, Vernan, Friedman and Reeds. Applicants respectfully traverse this art grounds of rejection.

As demonstrated above, Alanara in view of Appendix A, Schneier, Vernan and Friedman fails to render claim 17 and 18 obvious to one skilled in the art. From a cursory review of the Reeds patent, it is clear that Reeds does not overcome the disclosure and suggest deficiencies of these other cited references. Consequently, claims 17 and 18 are patentable over Alanara in view of Appendix A, Schneier, Vernan, Friedman and Reeds.

Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner withdraw these art grounds of rejection, and allow the subject application.

In the event that any outstanding matters remain in this application, Applicant requests that the Examiner contact Gary D. Yacura (Reg. No. 35,416) at (703) 205-8071 to discuss such matters.

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.17 and 1.136(a), Applicants respectfully petition for a one (1) month extension of time for filing a response in connection with the present application and the required fee of \$110.00 is attached hereto.

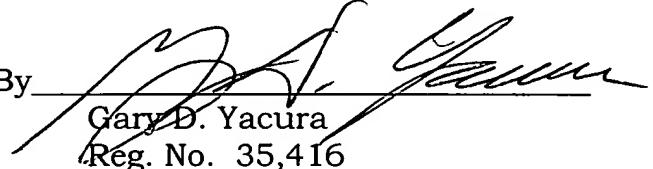
If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit

Account No. 12-2325 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 or 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Very truly yours,

BIRCH, STEWART, KOLASCH & BIRCH, LLP

By


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